

Approved at the October 28, 2021 meeting



The Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee

Meeting Minutes: Thursday September 23, 2021 –The meeting was held virtually.

Attendees: Clarissa Rowe, Chair (Arlington); George Parsons (Arlington); Paul Fennelly (Arlington); Beth Williams (Concord); Heather Gill (Concord); Jen Curtin (Concord); Paula Vaughn-MacKenzie (Lincoln); Jennifer Curtin (Lincoln); Giles Parker (NPS); Jennifer Pierce (NPS); Bob Domnitz (Lincoln); Jeanne Krieger (Lexington); Tim Paris (MassDOT); Sheila Page (Lexington); Nancy Nelson (Concord); Terri Ackerman; Sara Mattes; Richard Canale (Lexington) arrived part way through and left early.

The meeting opened at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of minutes was put off until the next meeting.

Clarissa said that she and Richard thought it would be good to have new leadership and suggested that Lincoln and Concord consider chairing the committee.

The group discussed that we put off elections to review the community MOUs and bylaws; in particular who are voting members and how voting works as we have new members. The group agreed to create a new governance committee to do this review.

This group would review: community MOUs, bylaws, how the subcommittees will work, and how we handle financial records. We need to revisit who we are and how we work together. The group agreed that while this review should happen, we don't want it to take away from the work that needs to be done on the resurfacing project. Any proposed changes would likely go through the Select Boards.

Members felt it was important to meet with the MassDOT folks: Andrew Wilkens – Project Manager; Paul Stedman -- District 4 Director; and Frank Suszynski, - District 4 Deputy Director to understand changes since the Toole Design. Tim thought that the project has progressed to 75% design. Members were surprised since there has not been a 25% design public hearing. Members asked if there would be one. Tim will check. Various members expressed frustration in the difficulty connecting with MassDOT. The group wants to have a meeting with MassDOT so we understand the details of the plans. The group also wants to see any changes since the Toole Design and if there are any changes necessary to meet AASHTO Roadside Design standards.

Richard said we need to create a forum to discuss the project and understand each town's position. Richard would like the committee to submit unified comments.

Member updates:

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Minute Man NP: Giles reported that the Park has entered into an agreement to use legacy restoration funds to improve buildings, landscapes and signs. Some of the work is along 2A but not directly on it. No comments are needed at this time. Later, there may be a need for NEPA comments. The work will be completed for the 250th anniversary. Giles credited the work of BJ and the NPS team to obtain this funding as it usually goes to the big parks. The Park is working on invasive species management. The Park Service is promoting a Halloween event at Hartwell Tavern. They are asking folks to carve a pumpkin to line the walk to the Tavern.

Arlington: Work for the geo thermal climate control system has begun. Ground penetrating radar revealed cisterns with shards of items. Nothing of archaeological significance was found. Work should be completed in October and the lawn will be restored in April. The beer garden on the Jason Russell house lawn has been a huge success.

Lexington: Freedom's Way has grant opportunities we should consider. The Lexington ribbon cutting for the new Visitor Center is October 7.

Concord: Restoration work at Old Manse and Wright Tavern is being considered for CPC funding.

Lincoln: Minuteman HS is almost done and is amazing.

Clarissa asked for one volunteer from each community to work on the governance review.

Those who volunteered are: Minute Man NP – Giles/Jennifer; Nancy – Concord; Richard – Lexington; Clarissa – Arlington; Lincoln - TBD

Meeting ended at 11:07 a.m.

Next Meeting will be held later possibly at 10:45 am